(b) what is the progress in respect of software for transliterating from Gurmukhi to Persian script and the *vice-versa* since until then, the job remains half done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No change in the existing statutes is required for the production of software.

(b) The software for transliteration from Gurmukhi to Shahmukhi (Persian Script) is ready. In view of the technical problems encountered, it is not possible to indicate a definite time frame for the development of the reverse transliteration software from Shahmukhi (Persian Script) to Gurmukhi.

Computers in post offices in Rajasthan

1192. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of post offices where computers have not yet been provided for computerized registrations in Rajasthan;

(b) the reason therefor; and

(c) the measures contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) There are 1450 Departmental Post Offices (Head Offices and Sub Offices) in Rajasthan Postal Circle. Out of 1450 Post Offices 1394 Post Offices have not yet been provided with computers for computerised registrations in Rajasthan. The names of Post Offices where computers have not yet been provided for computerised registrations in Rajasthan are indicated in the Annexure. *[see* appendix 199, Annexure No. 6]

(b) There are over 26000 departmental Post Offices in the country. Considering the limited resources that were available in the past, it was not possible to computerize all Post Offices, Selected Post Offices were taken up for computerization in all States.

(c) During the Tenth Plan Period, the Department proposed to computerize and network all the Head Post Offices and major Sub Post Offices in the country, including those in Rajasthan, subject to required clearances and availability of funds.

Service condition of E.D. postal employees

†1193. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps proposed to be taken to improve the service conditions of E.D. postal employees;

(b) whether Government are contemplating the proposal of providing them the status of regular departmental employees and pensionary benefits also after their retirement; and

(c) if so, by when, a decision in this regard would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The Justice Talwar Committee (JTC), constituted to examine the system of Extra Departmental Agency (now called Gramin Dak Sevaks) in the Department of Posts, their conditions of employment, wage structure etc., made various recommendations in this regard, which, *inter alia,* covered issues like their status, grant of pension etc. The Government of India examined the report of the said Committee and implemented a package of benefits, in full and final settlement of recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee, *vide* order dated 17-12-1998. The benefits in brief include:

(i) Raising the basic monthly allowance by a factor of 3.25 times, for the period from 01 -01 -1996 to 28-02-1998.

(ii) Placing them in Time Related continuity Allowance (TRCA) from 01-03-1998.

(iii) Increasing the maximum amount of *Ex-gratia* Gratuity from Rs. 6000/-to Rs. 18,000/-.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.